



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2021

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing Commissioner Copple and Commissioner Geiger were present. Chief Halverson, Deputy Chief Fulcher and District Secretary, Cathy Barth, were present. Members of the public were in attendance.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public/Staff Comments – Firefighter and Association President, Scott Peterson, reported that the District Boundary signs have been installed.

Firefighter, Jason Gwilt, asked if there would be additional signs posted in front of the new fire station. Commissioner Fox suggested he speak with Chief Halverson.

Consent Items –

A motion to approve the Minutes of September 13, 2021, was made by Commissioner Geiger, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Minutes of September 27, 2021, was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the payroll in the amount of \$129,954.11 was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the following vouchers for payment: Voucher numbers: 0469 through 0518 and totaling \$61,283.28 as verified by the District Secretary was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the following Safety Center vouchers for payment: Voucher numbers: 0091 through 0100 and totaling \$215,936.79 as verified by the District Secretary was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Fox under the emergency order restricting public meetings and District 5 Resolutions 2020-01 and 2020-02, authorized Chief Halverson to sign the payroll and vouchers for this month.

Chief's Report – See attached.

Commissioner Geiger asked if there was an itinerary of the interview process for the Assistant Fire Chief candidates. He also inquired if the interviews would be in person or over Zoom and if they would be held during a regular meeting or at a special meeting in Executive Session.

Commissioner Fox stated they would be in person at a special meeting in Executive Session. Chief Halverson stated that Strategic Government Resources (SGR), will be there to monitor and oversee the process. Commissioner Geiger commented that it had been discussed previously about eliciting community involvement in the interview process with members of the labor group, City, Fire District 5 Board members and the current Fire Chief. He asked if this is the type of interview we are considering. Chief Halverson replied that the Board of Commissioners would conduct the interview and that there is no expectation to have community involvement at this time. He suggested that the Board consider doing that during the promotional period for the Chief's position. Commissioner Geiger stated that he feels community involvement would be a benefit.



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Chief's Report – continued

Chief Halverson stated that he feels that after the Community has had time watching and working with the Assistant Chief, outside input might be valuable.

Commissioner Geiger commented that Community leaders may see some red flags that we might not see. Chief Halverson replied that it would be tough to make a call about a candidate during an interview. Commissioner Fox said he sees a problem with timing, and though he understands both sides of situation, he feels in the interest of time we need to get going. Chief Halverson stated that the candidates are also evaluating the Commissioners to judge how they will be to work with.

Commissioner Fox replied that SGR will be available to help coach the Board through the process. Commissioner Geiger inquired about the interview questions and how those were being determined. Chief Halverson responded, SGR will bring a list of questions the Board can add to, or remove questions as they see fit. The Board will review those questions with SGR prior to the interviews. Chief Halverson stated that he felt the Board could expect SGR to do a good job for them.

Commissioner Geiger asked if there were any updates with the ALS process. The Chief replied that he has been busy moving into the new station and so there has been no progress at this time.

Commissioner Geiger stated that he had heard about some L and I citations the District recently received. Were any of these issues the Commissioners should be concerned with and are they of any significance to the District? The Chief responded that the charges were made by an anonymous disgruntled employee. The citations are being taken care.

Secretary's Report – None

Reports – Commissioner Geiger asked if the aid calls report he inquired about at the last meeting would be forthcoming. Chief Halverson responded that the report is being compiled and should be available at the next meeting. .

Old Business – Commissioner Geiger asked if the ALS contracts with Sky Valley Fire and Rescue and Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue (SRFR), had been discussed any further. Chief Halverson responded that he had spoken with Chief Kevin Obrien briefly and they agreed to attempt meeting next week. The Chief's understanding is that as long as we are working toward our own program the status will not change. If we don't complete the process we will be expected to pay a contracted amount to both Districts.

Commissioner Geiger discussed Sky Valley Fire and Rescue (D26), and the resignations of seven of their Medics and his concern about Medic shortages. He assumed the resignations might be due to burn out. Chief Halverson replied that D26 Medics are all part time and work full time for other organizations. Commissioner Fox commented that District 5 has the finances and is receiving encouragement from both Districts to keep moving forward with our own Medic program. Commissioner Geiger suggested that the Board revisit the financial side of the process.

New Business – Commissioner Geiger asked the Chief if he was aware of the L and I Fire pilot program. He commented that it might be too late to sign up. However, if it is not, it might be of interest to us. It is a one or two year program. It allows the participant the opportunity to lower their rates and possibly obtain some grants. He suggested the District participate and add this to the agenda at a later date. Commissioner Copple commented that he felt this should be assessed through the Chief. Chief Halverson asked Commissioner Geiger to give him the information and he would review it.



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Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Fox thanked the Association and Scott Peterson for getting the new signs installed. He stated that he was delighted that personnel are moving into the new station. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Commissioner Geiger asked if there was any more information about the painting proposal Mr. Hose presented. Chief Halverson replied that Mr. Hose is in the process of creating a sketch for the Board to view. Mr. Hose was in to look at possible locations for the artwork and agreed that the best placement would be the main entry on the south wall. Commissioner Geiger asked that discussion about the painting be added to Old Business for the next meeting. He believes the South wall is a nice location. He further stated that he was happy to see the crews moving in and is looking forward to 24 hour shifts.

He congratulated Joseph Araujo for sticking around and getting the reimbursement for his Fire Academy Training.

Adjourn - Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:39p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary